

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 L-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1010

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 1138

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF, PP

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF 50 VIETNAMESE FAMILIES

REF: STATE 258973

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH CONROY NOVEMBER 3. CONROY MADE FOLLOWING INFORMAL COMMENTS: 1) EDUCATION FOR VIETNAMESE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM SINCE BOTH CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS AVAILABLE AT ALL THREE TOWN SITES. SECONDARY EDUCATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR OLDER CHILDREN. ALL CLASSES ARE IN ENGLISH. 2) HOUSING WILL BE THE MAIN PROBLEM AND HEALTH AND HOUSING AUTHORITIES WILL REQUIRE REASONABLE HOUSING CONSTRUCTED BEFORE ARRIVAL OF VN FAMILIES. THATCH IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, BUT QTE BRICK AND MORTAR UNQTE STANDARDS NOT REQUIRED EITHER. ADEQUATE HOUSING CONSIDERED TO BE FRAME DWELLING WITH ROOF OF TIN SHEETING AND WALLS OF ROUGH-SAWN WOOD, PLANK FLOORING. RETICULATED WATER OR LARGE, SANITARY STORAGE TANKS ON ROOF MANDATORY AS ARE ADEQUATE TOILET FACILITES.

UNIT COSTS WILL BE APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS AUST 3,000-4,000.

2. CONROY WILL INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES FOR ACQUIRING LAND AT THREE LOCATIONS, BUT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF STARKIST COULD NARROW PROBLEM TO ONE LOCATION. CONROY STATED THAT BEST PROCEDURE WAS FOR STARKIST TO NEGOTIATE FOR A SUITABLE BLOCK OF LAND WHICH, UNDER PRESENT LAND LAWS, WILL BE RENTED FOR FORTY TO FIFTY YEARS TO COMPANY. LAND CAN THEN BE SUBDIVIDED

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BY COMPANY WITH VN FAMILIES PAYING RENT TO COMPANY. UNDER

THIS PROCEDURE, COMPANY ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT MINIMUM HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS MAINTAINED.

3. CONROY UNDERSTANDS STARKIST STILL CONSIDERING PURCHASING OF FACTORY AND SURROUNDING LAND AREA SUITABLE FOR STAFF HOUSING AT KOKOPO (NEAR RABAU) FROM CARPENTERS. YOU MIGHT ENQUIRE OF STARKIST IF THIS PURCHASE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. IF IT IS, BOTH

LAND AND HOUSING PROBLEM WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY SOLVED, SINCE STARKIST COULD UNDERTAKE ORGANIZING CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING WITH POSSIBLE SELLBACK TO VN FAMILIES OVER PERIOD OF TIME.

4. EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE FURTHER INFO AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS OF HOUSING COMMISSION AND LANDS DEPARTMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE NOTIFY US IF STARKIST HAS FIRMER PLANS FOR LOCATING VN FAMILIES THAN NOTED IN REFTTEL, I.E. WHETHER ONE OF THREE SITES IS PREFERRED.
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